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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS**

REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY China
SUBJECT Military
HOW PUBLISHED Government publication
WHERE PUBLISHED Nan-ching
DATE PUBLISHED 30 Jun 1948
LANGUAGE Chinese

DATE OF INFORMATION 1948

DATE DIST. 8 Apr 1949

NO. OF PAGES 3

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE. Cheng-shih Ch'ing-pao (Political Intelligence) No 17, 1948. (Information requested.)

CCF PROCEDURE IN ATTACKS ON PILLBOXES

A. Reconnaissance

1. Intelligence Concerning the Enemy

- a. Strength; weapons; unit identification.
- b. Security measures; time of posting and relieving of guard; number and location of soldiers; how long on duty; how frequently rotated?
- c. Ordinary frequency of contact with key point; is the pillbox equipped with radio or any other means of communication?
- d. Relations between the guards and the nearby common people; fighting spirit of the officer and men guarding the pillbox.
- e. Living conditions of the guards; number of meals (2 or 3) per day and hours for meals; time of rising and retiring; where they go for exercise and recreation (into the village or afield).
- f. Equipment of the pillbox; constructed of earth or concrete, number of layers of concrete, number and direction of gun ports; is there a door? of wood or iron? does it open inward or outward?
- g. Any underground passages? where do they lead?
- h. Where are the firearms placed at night?
- i. Is there any other equipment in the pillbox? area of space inside?
- j. Customarily, what arms are carried when guards go outside?
- k. Time and frequency of passage of trucks or armored cars on the communicating roads.

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2. Terrain

- a. Obstacles outside the pillbox; barbed wire or rope, number, width and depth of trenches.
- b. Is use made of any natural feature of the ground outside, for concealment; size of communication trenches for passage of soldiers; suitable places for burying of land mines.
- c. Are there any wet ditches, rivers, or ponds close by?
- d. Degree pregnability; kind and amount of explosives required to blow it up.
- e. What is the best plan of attack to be able to cross the outer trenches and penetrate a breach in the barriers?

3. Local Inhabitants

- a. Is there any military organization among the people at large? In case of need, are they able to fight?
- b. Ordinarily, are the local people allowed to stroll about near the pillbox?

B. Formulation of Plans

After considering the results of reconnaissance and of intelligence available from all other sources, make the necessary decisions concerning the plan of attack; estimate the enemy's strength in men and in armament. In case the attack should prove unsuccessful, careful thought should be given in advance to the question of direction and way of escape.

1. Selection of Time of Attack

Potentially good times for attack are just before dawn, at midnight, at dusk, during a windstorm, a rain storm or fog.

a. Dawn

The advantages of attack at dawn are that, after being on guard all night, the majority of the defending soldiers are then sound asleep, and it should therefore be easy to surround the pillbox. If the attack is started when it is already becoming light, the defenders will more easily secure reinforcements, and the attackers will find it not so easy to withdraw. Under these circumstances the difficulties can be overcome only with the aid of the people.

b. Midnight

Attack at midnight utilizes the cover of darkness for the approach. But if the defenders respond with strong fire, the attackers should retire as best they can and get reinforcements. It is easy to lose contact under these circumstances; hence, night action is more difficult as regards command, communication, and liaison. Nevertheless, in order that our movements may be concealed, we should not fail to take advantage of the darkness for night operations and overcome all the attendant difficulties. Operations of this kind depend largely on the intimate knowledge possessed by certain of the local people. (Seize an opportunity when the defenders have invited some worthless scoundrels into the pillbox.)

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c. Dusk

At this time, frequently the officer and some of the men of the guard are away from their post for inspection of communications, etc. When their strength is thus dispersed, make the approach. However, this may facilitate discovery of our intentions; therefore it is advisable to disguise or camouflage our weapons, and then close in from all sides. The element of surprise is even greater in a storm or in a dense fog.

2. Provision of Materials and Equipment

- a. Bridge planks, for crossing ditches
- b. Ladders
- c. Fire-setting apparatus and fuel.

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